

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /158 W

----- 027430

R 041600Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2813

UNCLAS GENEVA 6384

PASS COMMERCE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGSC ECE, XG, ETRD

SUBJ: ECE TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ITS MEETING ON SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 30. US DEL HAD NO PROBLEMS ACHIEVING POSITIONS SPELLED OUT IN POSITION PAPERS. IT WAS AGREED THAT ACTION WOULD BE DEFERRED ON COMPETING EAST AND WEST RESOLUTIONS (TABLED AT 27TH PLENARY) SINCE POLICY MATTERS ARE BEING DISCUSSED AND COMPROMISE MAY BE REACHED IN CSCE CONTEXT. MEETING'S TONE WAS GENERALLY BUSINESS-LIKE AND AMIABLE. EAST (PRIMARILY HUNGARY AND BULGARIA WITH USSR MAKING A RATHER MODERATE STATEMENT) AS USUAL RAISED QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE, DIRECTED ALMOST WHOLLY AGAINST EC, PROTESTING AGAINST "DISCRIMINATION" AS INFRINGEMENT ON SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF NATIONS. EC REP RESPONDED IN USUAL VEIN, STRESSING NEED FOR RECIPROCITY AND JUSTIFYING QRS AS SAFEGUARD AGAINST MARKET DISRUPTION, THESE EXCHANGES DID NOT, HOWEVER, DLAY OR DISRUPT COMMITTEE'S WORK. NO ATTACKS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST US; USSR REP IN FACT THANKED US FOR OUR STATEMENT RE INTENTION OF ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR MFN AUTHORITY.

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COUNTRY STATEMENTS ON TRADE SITUATION UNDER ITEM 4 WERE

GENERALLY WELL-FOCUSED AND RELATIVELY BRIEF.

2. COMMITTEE AGREED THERE SHOULD BE AN INFORMAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON TRADE (ITEM 5C) AND OF EXPERTS ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (ITEM 6). INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION MEETING WILL ALSO ADDRESS ITSELF TO QUESTIONS OF FINANCING INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION; EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PROPOSED THIS AFTER RELUCTANCE TO HOLD A SEPARATE SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS OF PAYMENTS, FINANCING AND RELATED ISSUES OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (AGENDA ITEM 6B) WAS VOICED BY FRG, US AND OTHERS.

3. PRINCIPAL ITEM ON AGENDA WAS INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (ITEM 6) WHERE WIDE-RANGING USEFUL DISCUSSION DEVELOPED. BOTH SIDES CLEARLY INTERESTED IN CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL OF THIS FIELD. OPPOSITION TO AN ECE CENTER OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WAS VOICED BY NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, AND DECISION DEFERRED.

4. IN GENERAL, MEETING REPRESENTED A HOLDING OPERATION WHILE CSCE CONSIDERS SAME TOPICS. TONE OF MEETING WAS GOOD AND NON-COMBATIVE, AND INTEREST OF BOTH EAST AND WEST IN MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN COMMITTEE'S WORK PENDING CSCE DEVELOPMENTS WAS EVIDENT. MANY DELEGATES TO COMMITTEE SESSION ARE ALSO DELEGATES TO CSCE AND MADE FREQUENT REFERENCE TO SIMILARITY OF TRADE WORK BEING CONSIDERED IN BOTH BODIES. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY AND USEFULLY. BASSIN

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